

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 SAJ-01 L-01

INR-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 OMB-01 ACDA-10 /051 W

----- 125152

P R 281815Z AUG 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3281

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 54444

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 4577

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, MILI, MPOL, NATO, PFOR

SUBJECT: FRG AMBASSADORS VIEWS ON NATO STANDARDIZATION

REF: A. STATE 200959 DTG 222356Z AUG 75

B. STATE 176498 DTG 252330Z JUL 75

C. USNATO 4556 DTG 281026Z AUG 75

SUMMARY: AMB BRUCE'S INITIAL CONSULTATIONS WITH AMB KRAPF (FRG) ON STANDARDIZATION REVEALED SUBSTANTIAL US-FRG AGREEMENT BOTH ON NEED FOR ALLIANCE-WIDE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE STANDARDIZATION AND ON GENERAL DIRECTIONS THESE EFFORTS SHOULD FOLLOW. KRAPF BELIEVES FRENCH PARTICIPATION IS ESSENTIAL, BUT THAT SUCH PARTICIPATION WILL DEPEND ON DECISIONS AT HIGHEST LEVELS IN PARIS. HE RECOMMENDED THAT US CONDUCT THOROUGH CONSULTATIONS WITH FRANCE, BOTH HERE AND DURING POSSIBLE VISIT TO PARIS BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, BEFORE MAKING PRESENTATION IN NAC. WE AGREE WITH NEED FOR FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO TIMING OF NAC PRESENTATION. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORITY TO DELAY CONSULTATION WITH FRANCE UNTIL AMB DE ROSE RETURNS ABOUT SEPTEMBER 8. SUMMARY.
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1. AMB BRUCE CALLED ON AMB KRAPF (FRG) AUGUST 28 TO DISCUSS STANDARDIZATION ALONG LINES ADVANCED REF A. KRAPF SHOWED RECEPTIVE, POSITIVE ATTITUDE THROUGHOUT DISCUSSION; EMPHASIZED THAT FRG IS "VERY, VERY INTERESTED" IN ACHIEVING IMPROVED ALLIANCE

STANDARDIZATION; AND SAID THAT MINISTER LEBER HAD PERSONALLY CONFIRMED THIS POSITION IN CONVERSATION WITH KRAPF TWO DAYS AGO. KRAPF'S COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC TOPICS ARE SET FORTH IN FOLLOWING PARAS.

2. FRANCE AND EUROGROUP. KRAPF SAID "BIG PROBLEM" FOR STANDARDIZATION PROGRESS BOTH IN EUROPEAN AND TRANSATLANTIC CONTEXTS CONCERNS FRENCH PARTICIPATION, WHICH FRG IS "VERY INTERESTED"

IN ACHIEVING. HE SAID THAT THE FRENCH, "IN THE DEPTHS OF THEIR HEARTS," ALSO WANT TO PARTICIPATE, BUT THAT PROBLEM OF FINDING PROPER WAY TO THIS END REMAINED UNSOLVED. KRAPF DESCRIBED ATTEMPT BY HIMSELF AND AMD DE ROSE (FRANCE). DE ROSE HAD RESPONDED THAT PROBLEM WAS SO SENSITIVE THAT IT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT "HIGHEST LEVELS" AND MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF MEETING BETWEEN CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND PRESIDENT GISCARD. INDEED, KRAPF NOTED THAT DE ROSE HAD ASKED HIM TO "LEAVE ME OUT OF IT." REGARDING A SCHMIDT-GISCARD DISCUSSION OF STANDARDIZATION, KRAPF SAID SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES EXISTED DURING THE NEXT TWO MONTHS BUT THAT BONN HAD NOT DECIDED WHETHER TO PURSUE MATTER AT THAT LEVEL. KRAPF SAID THAT EUROGROUP MEMBERS HAD DECIDED NOT TO DELAY EFFORTS ON STANDARDIZATION INITIATIVE PENDING FRENCH DECISION ON PARTICIPATION IN EUROGROUP. KRAPF SAID FRG WANTED TO "STICK WITH"EUROGROUP AS LONG AS IT REMAINED USEFUL, BUT THAT FRG WAS RECEPTIVE TO ANY BETTER MECHANISM WHICH MIGHT DEVELOP.

3. FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN SPRING REVIEW. CITING EXTREME FRENCH SENSITIVITY TO ANYTHING "SMELLING OF INTEGRATION" IN MILITARY FIELD, KRAPF SAW NO POSSIBILITY FOR FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN A SPRING REVIEW. HE SAID HE HAD NO SUGGESTIONS FOR SURMOUNTING THIS PROBLEM.

4. STEERING GROUP. KRAPF SUPPORTED ESTABLISHMENT BY THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL (NAC) OF A STEERING GROUP WITH COMPOSITION ALONG LINES OF REF A PARA 8. HE PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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FRENCH PARTICIPATION AND SUGGESTED THAT STEERING GROUP USE SUBCOMMITTEES, IF NECESSARY, TO GET AROUND SECURITY PROBLEMS ARISING FROM PORTUGUESE MEMBERSHIP.

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INR-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 OMB-01 ACDA-10 /051 W

----- 125421

P R 281815Z AUG 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3282

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 5445

USNMR SHAPE

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5. PROGRESS TOWARD STANDARDIZATION. BRUCE SAID THE US RECOGNIZED THAT ALLIANCE-WIDE STANDARDIZATION IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE BOTH INCREMENTAL AND TIME-CONSUMING, BUT THAT HE BELIEVED PRESIDENT FORD, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND OTHERS WERE CONVINCED THAT WE MUST START NOW. KRAPF AGREED, SAYING THAT REAL PROGRESS WOULD NO DOUBT HURT SOME VESTED INTERESTS AND THAT THE ALLIANCE MUST FIND WAYS FOR EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTING THESE "HURTS". IN KRAPF'S VIEW, THE QUESTION OF HOW TO SHARE TECHNOLOGICAL "KNOW-HOW" WAS MORE DIFFICULT TO SOLVE THAN THAT OF SHARING PROFITS. HE NOTED WRYLY THAT EVEN THE NAZIS WERE UNABLE TO STANDARDIZE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AMONG GERMAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIES.

6. TIMING OF PROCEDURES. BRUCE MENTIONED NEED TO DISCUSS STANDARDIZATION INITIATIVE WITH DE STAERCKE AND DE ROSE WHEN THEY RETURN TO BRUSSELS (APPROXIMATELY SEPTEMBER 8) AND TO RAISE ISSUE DURING PERMREPS LUNCHEON PRIOR TO FORMAL NAC INTERVENTION IN SEPTEMBER. DRAPF AGREED WITH PROPOSED GENERAL APPROACH, BUT HE EMPHASIZED NEED FOR THOROUGH PRIOR CONSULTATIONS WITH DE ROSE. HE CAUTIONED THAT UNLESS DE ROSE IS FULLY BRIEFED NAD HAS TIME TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH PARIS, US INTERVENTION IN NAV MAY ELICIT CONFIDENTIAL

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A NEGATIVE FRENCH RESPONSE WHICH WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CHANGE. IN THIS REGARD, KRAPF SAID SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND MINISTER LEBER WOULD BE MEETING SEPTEMBER 23 AND THAT HE UNDERSTOOD SECRETARY SCHLESINGER MIGHT SUBSEQUENTLY VISIT LONDON AND PARIS. KRAPF STRONGLY ENDORSED THESE MEETINGS AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS OF STANDARDIZATION ISSUE AND IMPLIED THAT US MAY WISH TO POSTPONE INITIAL NAC DISCUSSION UNTIL AFTER SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAS VISITED PARIS.

7. AMB BRUCE LEFT COPY OF TALKING POINTS (PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A) WITH AN ATTACHMENT ENTITLED "US VIEWS ON ESSENTIAL BASES FOR STANDARDIZATION" WHICH DREW ON PARAS 6A-H OF REF B. KRAPF SAID HE WOULD SOLICIT BONN VIEWS AND INFORM BRUCE OF THEM.

8. FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSION. FOLLOWING THE BRUCE-KRAPF MEETING, FRG DEFENSE ADVISOR (BGEN SCHUNEMANN) ASKED TO TALK FURTHER WITH US ACTING DEFENSE ADVISOR (BGEN SEIGEL) ABOUT STANDARDIZATION ISSUES RAISED BY KRAPF. SCHUNEMANN REITERATED FRG DESIRE THAT US ENSURE FRENCH ACCEPTANCE OF STANDARDIZATION INITIATIVE BEFORE RAISING ISSUE IN NAV. HE SPECIFICALLY SUGGESTED THAT AMBASSADOR BRUCE MAKE HIS NAC INTERVENTION AFTER SECRETARY SCHLESINGER

VISITS TO BONN, LONDON AND PARIS. SCHUNEMANN ALSO SHOWED SEIGLE A DRAFT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOR STANDARDIZATION WHICH EUROGROUP MEMBERS WILL INITIALLY CONSIDER NEXT WEEK. SCHUNEMANN NOTED (CORRECTLY) THAT THE PROPOSED EUROGROUP PRINCIPLES WERE SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH BRUCE HAD GIVEN DRAPF (DRAWN FROM REF B, PARAS 6A-H) AND RECOMMENDED THAT THE US ALLOW EUROGROUP TO REACH AGREEMENT ON ITS OWN PRINCIPLES BEFORE SEEKING FORMAL ACCEPTANCE OF THOSE OFFERED BY US.

9. COMMENT. BOTH UK (REF C) AND FRG HAVE NOW CAUTIONED AGAINST OUT PROCEEDING WITH A NAC INTERVENTION BEFORE COMPLETING THOROUGH AND EFFECTIVE PRIOR CONSULTATIONS WITH FRANCE, PERHAPS INCLUDING HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS DURING TRIP BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER TO BONN, LONDON AND PARIS. WE TEND TO AGREE WITH THEIR ASSESSMENT THAT FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN NATO STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS WILL BE DETERMINED AT HIGHEST LEVEL AND THAT PREMATURE ADVANCES IN BRUSSELS RUN RISK OF "KNEE-JERK NEGATIVISM". WE THEREFORE PROPOSE SUBJECT TO WASHINGTON VIEWS, TO POSTPONE MEETING WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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FRENCH UNTIL DE ROSE'S RETURN (APPROXIMATELY SEPTEMBER 8). WE FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON CONSIDER A FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO TIMING FOR NAC INTERVENTION TO ALLOW FULL CONSULTATIONS WITH DE ROSE AND DE STAERCKE AND TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SECRETARY SCHELSINGERS POSSIBLE VISITS TO EUROPEAN CAPITALS. END COMMENT. BRUCE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO04577
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750897/abbrzlqu.tel
Line Count: 203
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: A. STATE 200959 DTG 222356Z AUG 75 B. STATE 176498 DTG 252330Z JUL 75 C. USNATO 4556 DTG 281026Z AUG 75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG AMBASSADORS VIEWS ON NATO STANDARDIZATION
TAGS: MCAP, MILI, MPOL, NATO, PFOR
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USLOACLANT
CINCLANT

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006